



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Ref: EPR ER

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT Alkire Street Pesticides Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado

I. HEADING

Date: July 19, 2002
From: Tien Nguyen
Agency: EPA
Unit: Region VIII - Emergency Response Program
999 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver Colorado 80202
(303) 312-6820
To: Patty Kalla, EPA Headquarters
POLREP No.: Initial
Site: Alkire Street Pesticides Site

II. BACKGROUND

Site Number: 08EW
Party Conducting the Action: EPA
Response Authority: CERCLA
CERCLIS No: CO 0012986108
NPL Status: No
Action Memorandum Status: Approved - 06/18/02
Date Action Started: 07/15/02
Completion Date: TBD

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Time-Critical, Fund-Lead.

B. Site Description

1. Site description

The Site is located at 7700 Alkire Street in Jefferson County, Colorado . The property is not located within the City limits of a municipality.



The Site is approximately two acres and is bordered by Leyden Creek, which flows to Ralston Creek to Clear Creek to the Platte River. The Site is used to be a nursery/tree business. A small pond is located on site adjacent to Leyden Creek; apparently pooled water from the pond was pumped and used as irrigation water for the trees.

There is one primary residence and one secondary residence on the property; both are presently unoccupied. Several outbuildings are located on the Site and are generally in poor condition with a large amount of unsorted materials stored inside. Three tanks (250-500 gallon capacity and labeled "number 2 diesel") are located on stands along the south property boundary.

There are reportedly 4 drinking water/irrigation wells on the property. Only one well is functional; and, since the shallow aquifer has a high hardness content, precipitants probably impaired the usability of three of the wells. The well that is functional has been deepened several times to its depth of 500 feet.

The property is unsecured; and a new residential development is being constructed immediately north and northeast of the Site. An active greenhouse is located south of the Site; Van Arsdale Elementary School and a softball field complex are located immediately southwest.

3. Site Evaluation

EPA and its Superfund Technical Assistance Team (START2) conducted a reconnaissance visit to the Site on January 25, 2002, and a follow-up on February 1 and 2, 2002. More than 400 small containers and bags of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and miscellaneous gardening chemicals were inventoried and organized in the two buildings on the Site. Neighbors reported that the property owner dumped containers of DDT on the ground when it was banned from further use. As part of the removal assessment, START2 collected two surface water samples and three sediment samples from Leyden Creek (adjacent to the Site), two groundwater samples from domestic wells on the Site, and three surface soil samples & five product samples on-site.

3. Description of threat

A large number and quantity of hazardous substances (including dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane [DDT], methoxychlor, and silvex) are present at the Site. The property is unsecured and is situated approximately 250 yards from an elementary school and 100 yards from recreational softball facilities. There is a high potential for children to visit this Site as an attractive nuisance and be exposed to the hazardous substances on-site and/or to cause hazardous substances to be released to the environment. In addition, the property is located adjacent to a creek that has potential for flooding and release of hazardous substances into the environment. It has also been reported that vandals have visited the Site; vandals could enter the buildings and damage the containers, thus releasing hazardous substances to the environment and/or exposing themselves to the materials.

In addition to the 445 containers of chemicals in the buildings, three 55-gallon drums of chemicals, several pressure containers with unknown contents, a number of used oil containers, approximately 100 bags of fertilizer & pesticides, and several fuel tanks are present on the Site.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Removal actions

On July 2, 2002, the Judge signed a warrant to be effective on 7/12/2002, on 7/12/02, the OSC and the EPA contractors, START2 and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) conducted a pre-removal site planning at the Site.

On Monday, July 15, 2002, EPA and its contractors, ERRS and START2, mobilized to the Site and initiated the following actions:

- Approximately 445 containers of hazardous materials and pesticides/ herbicides were identified and segregated. Containers without labels were Hazcatted. All of these containers were lab-packed - a total of 14 drums.
- Approximately 100 paper-torn bags of fertilizer & pesticides were overpacked in 55 gallon poly drums - a total of 16 drums.
- Numerous containers of mostly oil products were collected throughout the Site and consolidated in drums for recycling. This group included 5 drums of oily liquid, 2 drums of grease, 1 drum of solvent, and 2 drums of corrosives.
- In addition, an unknown amount of diesel fuel in three 250-gallon above-ground tanks will be recycled to mitigate the potential of fire on site.
- The potentially contaminated soils on-site were also sampled to determine the extent of leakage/spillage.

By July 17, 2002, a total of 40 drums were staged on Site awaiting waste profile in preparation for transportation and disposal.

2. Enforcement

To Be Determined

3. State and Local Role

A State representative was on site during the removal. The State and local agencies are supportive of the initiative to get the Site cleaned up but do not have the expertise or money to complete an immediate Removal action on the Site.

B. Future Plans

The drums have been packaged and stored onsite until such time as they can be disposed at an appropriate disposal facility. Results of the soil sampling will be reviewed.

C. Key Issues

None at this time.

V. COST INFORMATION

Total costs have not been received at this time but are estimated to be less than the budget ceiling of \$62,400 which was established in the Action Memorandum.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTE

To Be Determined